

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1 1. A carpet tucker and trimmer, comprising:
 - 2 a base;
 - 3 a handle connected to the base;
 - 4 at least one wheel connected to the base or to the handle;
 - 5 at least one blade supported on the base or on the handle for trimming carpet; and
 - 6 a trailings guide supported on the base or on the handle generally between the at
 - 7 least one wheel and the at least one blade.

- 1 2. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 1, wherein:
 - 2 the base generally defines a plane;
 - 3 the carpet tucker further comprises a flange extending transversely to the plane;
 - 4 the flange supports the at least one wheel; and
 - 5 the trailings guide is integral with the flange.

- 1 3. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 2, wherein the trailings guide comprises:
 - 2 a central portion generally parallel to the handle; and
 - 3 at least a first end connected to and extending away from the central portion.

- 1 4. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 2, wherein:
 - 2 the at least one blade has an exposed cutting edge; and
 - 3 the first end extends away from the central portion to a position generally between
 - 4 the at least one wheel and the cutting edge.

1 5. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 2, wherein:
2 the trailings guide further comprises a second end extending away from the central
3 portion in a direction generally opposite to the first end;
4 the at least one blade is a first blade and the base has a second blade supported
5 thereon, the second blade having an exposed cutting edge; and
6 the first and second ends extend away from the central portion to positions
7 generally between the at least one wheel and respective cutting edges of the first and
8 second blades.

1 6. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 2, wherein:
2 the flange is positioned between the at least one wheel and the handle; and
3 the first end extends away from the handle toward a plane of the at least one wheel
4 to guide carpet trailings away from the at least one wheel as the trailings move generally
5 toward the central portion.

1 7. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 2, wherein:
2 the trailings guide further comprises a second end extending away from the central
3 portion in a direction generally opposite to the first end; and
4 the first and second ends extend away from the handle toward the plane of the at
5 least one wheel to guide carpet trailings away from the at least one wheel as the trailings
6 move generally toward the central portion from both the first and second ends so that the
7 carpet tucker and trimmer provides a bi-directional tool capable of trimming and tucking
8 in two opposite directions.

1 8. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 2, wherein:
2 the trailings guide further comprises a second end extending away from the central
3 portion in a direction generally opposite to the first end; and
4 the first and second ends extend perpendicularly to the base.

1 9. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a recess in the handle; and
3 a flip top cover on the handle covering the recess for enclosing and storing at
4 least one blade in the recess.

1 10. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 1, wherein:
2 the base generally defines a plane; and
3 the blade is disposed at an angle in a range from approximately zero degrees to
4 approximately forty-five degrees relative to the plane of the base and extending toward the
5 base and away from the handle.

1 11. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 1, wherein:
2 the base generally defines a plane; and
3 the blade is disposed at an angle in a range from approximately zero degrees to
4 approximately ten degrees relative to the plane of the base and extending toward the base
5 and away from the handle.

1 12. The carpet tucker and trimmer of claim 1, wherein:
2 the base generally defines a plane; and
3 the blade is disposed at an angle in a range from approximately four degrees to
4 approximately seven degrees relative to the plane of the base and extending toward the
5 base and away from the handle.

1 13. A carpet trimmer and tucker tool and a blade, the tool comprising:
2 a base;
3 a handle connected to the base;
4 at least one wheel connected to the base or to the handle;
5 a recess in the base, the recess receiving the blade;
6 structure in the recess engaging structure on the blade and holding the blade against
7 rotation;
8 a pin supported on the tool and traversing the recess in a securing position;
9 wherein:
10 the blade comprises at least one through opening that is re-entrant or
11 closed;
12 the pin engages the through opening in the blade and inhibits translational
13 movement of the blade out of the recess when the pin is in the securing position; and
14 the pin is movable into a non-securing position that permits translational
15 movement of the blade out of the recess.

1 14. The tool and blade of claim 13, wherein the pin has a polygonal cross section.

1 15. The tool and blade of claim 13, wherein the pin has an oblong cross section.

1 16. The tool and blade of claim 13, wherein:
2 the structure in the recess comprises a protrusion;
3 the structure on the blade comprises an oblong notch;
4 a shape of the protrusion is a compliment of a shape of the oblong notch; and
5 the protrusion inhibits rotation of the blade relative to the tool.

- 1 17. The tool and blade of claim 13, wherein:
 - 2 the structure in the recess comprises a protrusion having a first dimension;
 - 3 the structure on the blade comprises an oblong notch having a width of a second
 - 4 dimension; and
 - 5 the first dimension is complimentary to the second dimension so that the protrusion
 - 6 is received into and removed from the notch in a relative translational motion.

- 1 18. The tool and blade of claim 13, wherein the tool further comprises a retaining
2 structure for holding the pin on the tool in the securing position.

- 1 19. The tool and blade of claim 18, wherein the retaining structure further comprises:
 - 2 threads on the pin; and
 - 3 female threads for receiving the threads of the pin to secure the pin to the rest of
 - 4 the tool in the securing position.

- 1 20. The tool and blade of claim 18, wherein the retaining structure further comprises:
 - 2 a notch on the pin; and
 - 3 a spring pin secured to the tool and engaging the notch to hold the pin on the rest of
 - 4 the tool in the securing position.

- 1 21. The tool and blade of claim 18, wherein the retaining structure further comprises:
 - 2 a spring biased detente on the pin; and
 - 3 a recess in the tool, the recess engaged by the spring biased detente to hold the pin
 - 4 on the rest of the tool in the securing position.

1 22. The tool and the blade of claim 18, wherein:
2 the at least one through opening is a first through opening;
3 the blade further comprises a second through opening; and
4 the pin further has a peg for engaging the second through opening in the blade and
5 for causing the translational movement in order to slidingly remove the blade from the
6 recess.

1 23. A blade for a tool, the blade comprising:
2 a plurality of sides forming a tetrahedral shape; and
3 two securing regions spaced along at least one of the sides of the blade;
4 wherein the securing regions comprise at least one through opening extending
5 through the blade and at least one notch through opening extending through the blade and
6 extending to an edge formed by one of the sides.

1 24. The blade of claim 23, wherein:
2 the blade is elongated; and
3 the regions are located generally at opposite longitudinal ends.

1 25. The blade of claim 24, wherein one longitudinal end is a mirror image of the other
2 longitudinal end so that the blade is reversible by turning the blade over end-to-end about a
3 short axis of the blade.

1 26. The blade of claim 23, wherein each securing region includes at least two through
2 openings.

1 27. The blade of claim 23, wherein one of the through openings is polygonal and
2 another of the through openings is oblong.

1 28. The blade of claim 23, wherein the through openings comprise at least one of an
2 oblong, an oval, an elongate notch, a polygon, a triangle, a tetrahedron, a pentagon, and a
3 hexagon.
